

UTSI presents 16 papers at propulsion conference

Drs. Gary Flandro and Joseph Majdalani and five of their UTSI students recently presented 16 technical papers at the annual Joint Propulsion Conference and exhibit organized by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Dr. Flandro's paper dealing with rocket motor stability was unanimously nominated as the best paper of the conference, held in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Co-authors on this paper were Majdalani; S.R. Fischbach, a current graduate research assistant from Bloomington, Ill., now residing in Manchester, and Jonathan C. French, a UTSI graduate now with Software and Engineering Associates Inc., Carson City, Nev.

French earned a master's degree in mechanical engineering in 1993, and a doctorate in engineering science in 1996, with Dr. John Caruthers as his major professor.

"This paper was worth the price of attending the conference," said Dr. Herman Krier, session chairman and "Richard W. Kritzer Distinguished Professor of Propulsion" at the University of Illinois-Urbana-Champaign.

Flandro occupies UTSI's Boling Chair of Excellence in Space Propulsion and Majdalani is the Jack D. Whitfield Professor of High Speed Flows.

Other current students — all graduate research assistants — who participated include Keith P. Savage, Stephen Edward Stasko, Mark W. Olles, Nicholas Lynn, an Aachen Fellow, and Esam Abu-Irshaid.

Stasko, a NASA Space Grant Fellow, earned a master's at UTSI in December, 2001, and is a candidate for a UTSI Ph.D.

Savage graduated in May with a master's in Aeronautical Engineering, and is now seeking another mas-

ter's at UTSI in mechanical engineering.

Lynn is president of the Student Government Association; Olles and Fischbach are vice presidents.

"We are proud of these students and their professors and frankly also amazed at this achievement," said Dr. John E. Caruthers, UT associate vice president and UTSI's chief operating officer.

"To have 16 papers presented from one institution is so rare that it staggers the imagination and is a credit not only to these professors and students but to the Space Institute itself."

Indeed, the UTSI delegation "caused a stir" at the convention, Majdalani admitted.

"It seemed that everyone had heard that we were presenting an unusual number of papers. It was an exciting time as we were able to exchange ideas with professionals from other parts of the world.

"Most of the remarks were from 'high caliber faculty from Tier 1 universities,'" Majdalani said. "They were congratulating us on the quality, rather than the quantity, of papers that we had produced. There was so much interest, especially by Air Force, Navy, and NASA affiliates. One participant noted that UTSI's papers were some of the best written."

The UTSI team received invitations to France, Italy and Israel to help other nations deal with acoustic instability problems that hamper their propulsion and power generation systems.

This 40th joint conference held in July encompassed the following professional societies: American Institute of Aeronautics & Astronautics (AIAA), American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Society of Automobile Engineers (SAE), and the American Society of Electrical Engineers (ASEE).